

Rediscovery of *Berchemiella wilsonii* (Schneid.) Nakai (Rhamnaceae), an endangered species from Hubei, China

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Abstract *Berchemiella wilsonii* (Schneid.) Nakai, an endangered species in the Rhamnaceae, was rediscovered in the Houhe National Nature Reserve, Wufeng County, Hubei Province, China, a place about 130 km away from its type locality, Xingshan County, where Wilson in 1907 collected the species for the first time. Wilson's type collection has flowers, but no fruits. The specimens collected from Wufeng have both flowers and fruits. A description of the fruit characters is added for the species.

Key words *Berchemiella wilsonii*, additional description, Rhamnaceae.

Schneider (1914) described *Chaydaia wilsonii* based on a collection, Wilson 3388, from Xingshan County, Hubei, China. Nakai (1923) transferred it to *Berchemiella* Nakai, making the combination *Berchemiella wilsonii* (Schneid.) Nakai. In the past 90 years, this species was not found again in the field in spite of the great efforts made by both Chinese and foreign taxonomists.

During a botanical expedition to the Houhe National Nature Reserve, Wufeng County, Hubei, a place about 130 km away from Xingshan County, *Berchemiella wilsonii* was unexpectedly found. The species is very rare in this area. We have seen only two trees. The Houhe National Nature Reserve was established to protect mainly *Davidia involucrata* Baill., *Tetracentron sinensis* Oliv., *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* Sieb. & Zucc. and *Sycopsis sinensis* Oliv.

In the protologue, Schneider (1914) described his species as a scandent shrub 3–6 m tall growing in thickets. However, the two individuals we found are trees up to 18 m tall and grow in mixed evergreen and deciduous broad-leaved forests.

Wilson's type collection has flowers, but no fruits. The specimens collected from Wufeng have both flowers and fruits. A description of the fruit characters is added for the species.

Berchemiella wilsonii (Schneid.) Nakai in Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 37: 31. 1923. — *Chaydaia wilsonii* Schneid. in Sargent, Pl. Wils. 2: 221. 1914. — *Berchemia wilsonii* (Schneid.) Koidz in Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 39: 21. 1925. Type: China. Hubei (湖北): Xingshan (兴山), alt. 1300 m, in thickets, 1907-07, Wilson 3388 (holotype, A!).

Fig. 1

Descrip. add.: Frutex scandens vel arbor 3–18 m alta. Drupa teres, maturitate purpurea, 6–8 mm longa, 3–4 mm diam., glabra, pedicello fructifero circ. 2–3 mm longo. Discus disciformis, 5-lobatus, crassus, 4–4.5 mm diam., persistens.

Shrub scandent or tree 3–18 m tall. Drupe terete, purple when mature, 6–8 mm long, 3–4 mm in diam., glabrous; fruit-bearing pedicel ca. 2–3 mm long. Disc disc-like, 5-lobate,

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Fig. 1. *Berchemiella wilsonii* (Schneid.) Nakai. A , flowering branch ; B , flower ; C , unwrapped petals and stamens ; D , sepal ; E , ovary ; F , fruit ; G , abaxial surface of leaf. Drawn by G. X. Chen from Y. Q. Tian 1329.

thick , 4 – 4.5 mm in diam. , persistent .
Additional specimen examined .
China. Hubei (湖北) : Wufeng (五峰) , Houhe National Nature Reserve , alt. 1300 m , in evergreen or deciduous broad-leaved forests , 2001-06-23 , Y. Q. Tian (田玉强) 1329 (HIB) .

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濒危物种小勾儿茶的新发现

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摘要 在距离濒危物种小勾儿茶模式标本产地约 130 km 处的湖北省五峰县后河自然保护区中重新发现了小勾儿茶 *Berchemiella wilsonii* (Schneid.) Nakai。威尔逊 1907 年在湖北省兴山县采集到小勾儿茶的模式标本有花 ,无果实。我们在五峰县采集了小勾儿茶的花和果实标本并对其果实特征予以补充描述。
关键词 小勾儿茶 ; 补充描述 ; 鼠李科